

RIVERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 1, 2009

On the reverse side of this letter you will find a letter from the Morris County Office of Health Management regarding Swine flu (H1N1). This letter was created as a direct result of a conference call between health officials and the Morris County school superintendents. A subsequent conference call took place with superintendents throughout the state and the Commissioner of Education, so that we might remain current in regards to the status and proactive on the subject, as it potentially impacts our schools.

At the time of the writing of this letter, there exists 5 confirmed cases of H1N1 (swine flu) in New Jersey. As a district we remain vigilant in reinforcing good hygiene habits in our students and have increased the frequency of sanitization in the building. Mrs. Rapone has worked closely with our County Board of Health, to review appropriate protocols and to remain informed of updates as they occur.

To highlight information I have received to date, please note the following:

The reason H1N1 is being referred to as a pandemic is **not** because of the severity and danger of the flu itself, but rather due to the **potential** widespread geographic impact of the disease, as we have not developed any antibodies for this strain of flu.

As a district, we recommend the following:

If your child presents with a fever (over 100.4) and flu like symptoms (cough and or sore throat, headache, chills, and/or vomiting and diarrhea,) please keep him/her home.

Report your child's illness **and symptoms** to Mrs. Rapone (973-839-1300 x 104)

Consider taking your child to the doctor for medical assessment.

Do not send your child back to school until the fever has been gone for 24 hours (without the use of aspirin or Tylenol)

Consult the district's website www.rpsnj.org, which will have links to the CDC (Center for Disease Control). We also have posted the following documents: Swine Flu Fact Sheet, Home Care for Pandemic Flu.

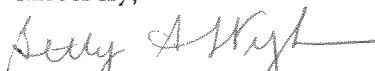
Should the prevalence of swine flu escalate to the point that the district needs to close, in consultation with local health officials, it will be necessary for you to have plans for your child care. Should such a situation develop, it is likely that the school would need to be closed for a period of up to 7 days.

The following resources might be helpful for further information:

www.cdc.gov/swineflu or www.nj.gov/health
NJDHSS Hot line - 1-866-321-9571

Know that the health and safety of our students remains a primary concern.

Sincerely,


Betty Ann Wyks, Ed.D.
Superintendent